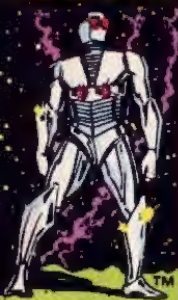


MARVEL



ROOM

THE END
IS ~~NEAR!~~
HERE!

60¢
U.K. 30p
CAN. 75c

64
MAR

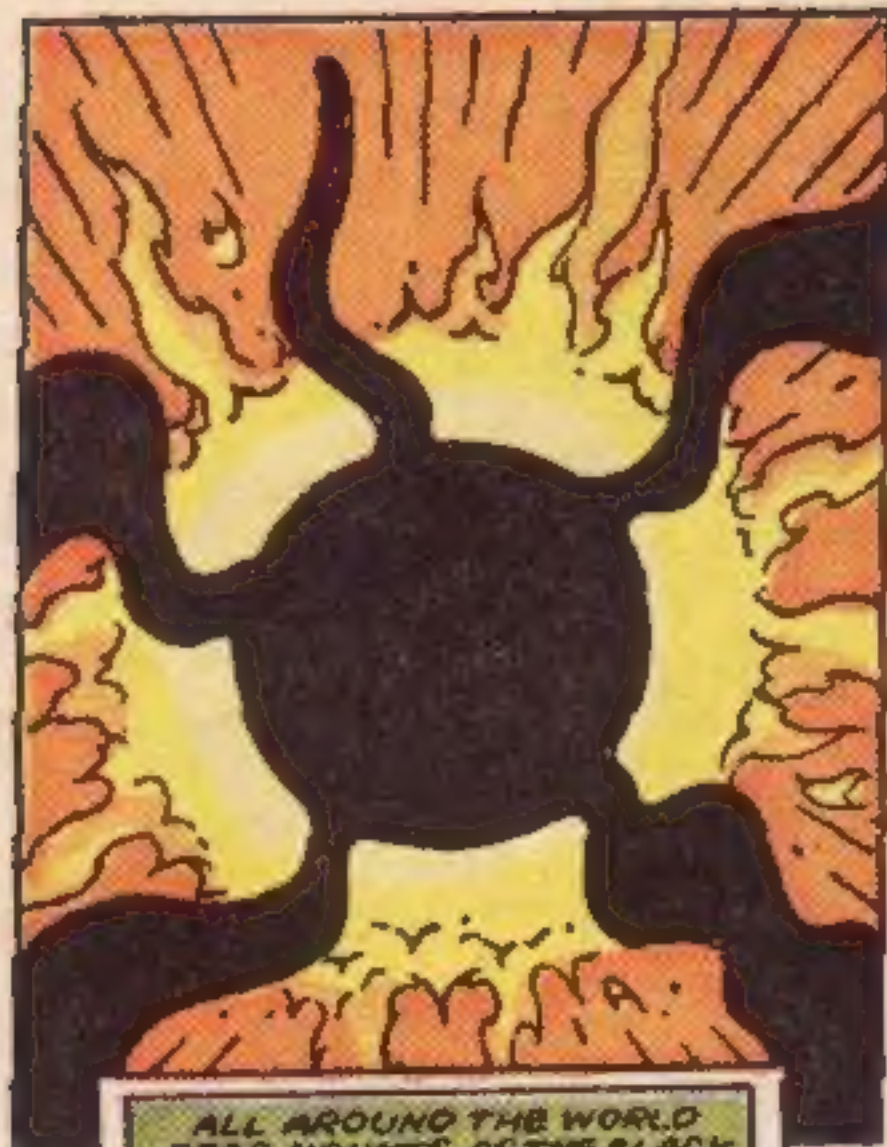
P. CRAIG RUSSELL - 84-





STARE INTO THEIR FACES.
COME TO SHARE THEIR FEAR.

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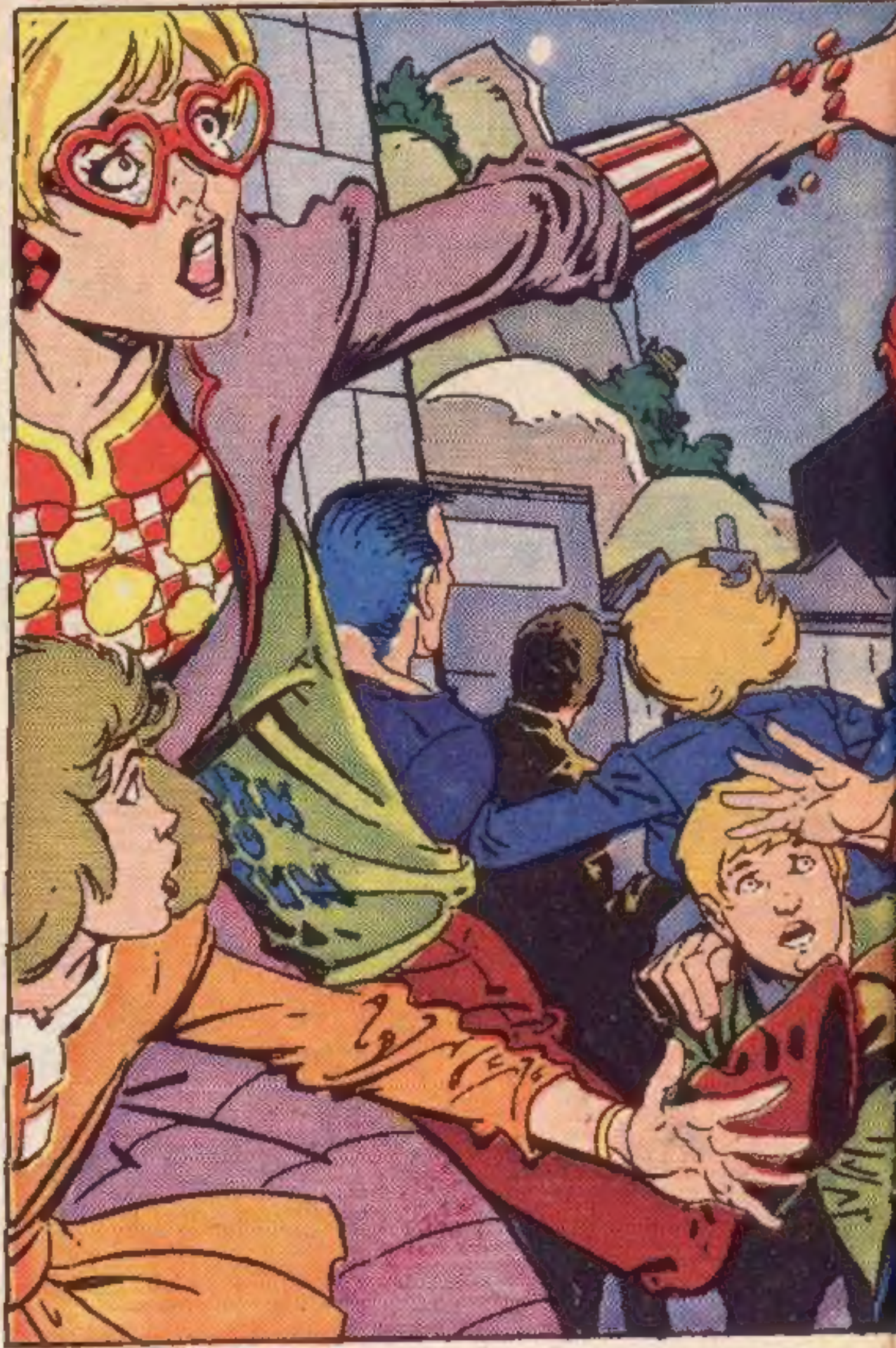
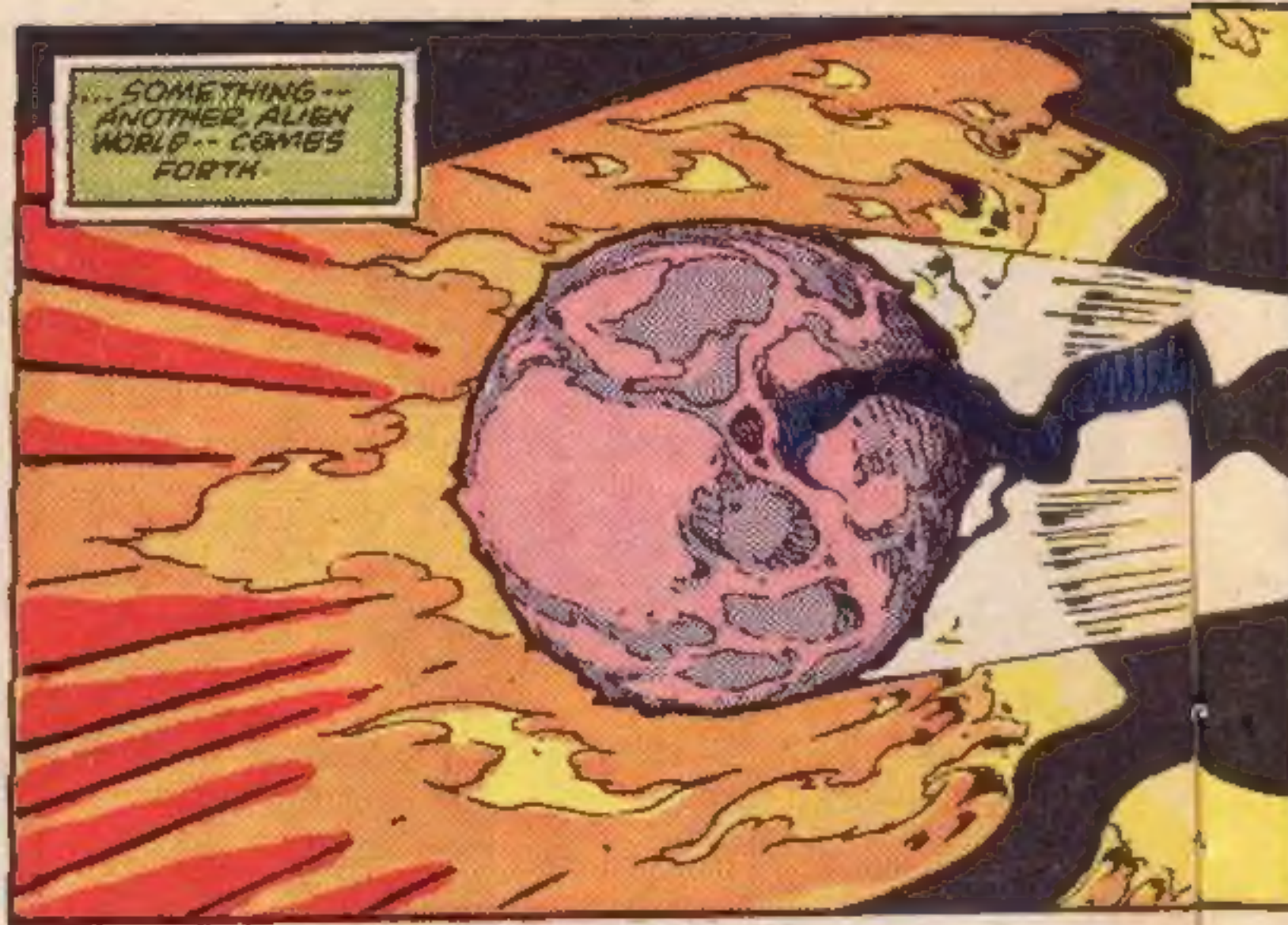
ALL AROUND THE WORLD
FEAR MOUNTS AS THE BLACK
HOLE BORED THROUGH THE
VERY HEART OF EARTH'S
SLIN GROWS LARGER...



...AND THROUGH THAT
EVIL EBON GASH, BROUGHT
ACROSS SPACE BY MAGIC
BOTH BLACK AND FOL...

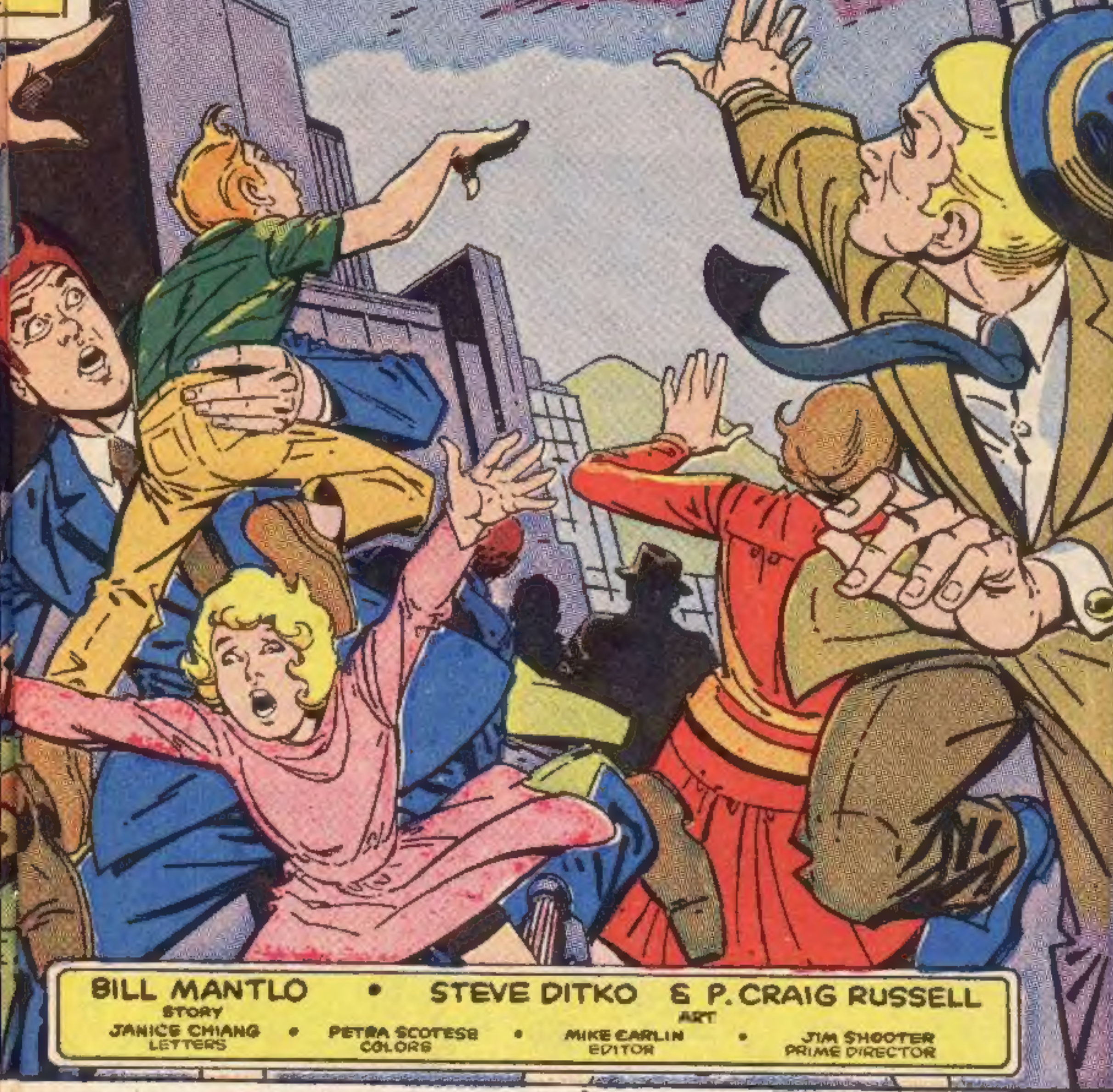


... SOMETHING --
ANOTHER ALIEN
WORLD -- COMES
FORTH



THIS, THEN, IS THE MOMENT OF...

WORLDMERGE!



BILL MANTLO

STORY

**JANICE CHIANG
LETTERS**

1

STEVE DITKO & P. CRAIG RUSSELL

2004

PETRA SCOTESB
COLORB

MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
CO-LEAD DIRECTOR

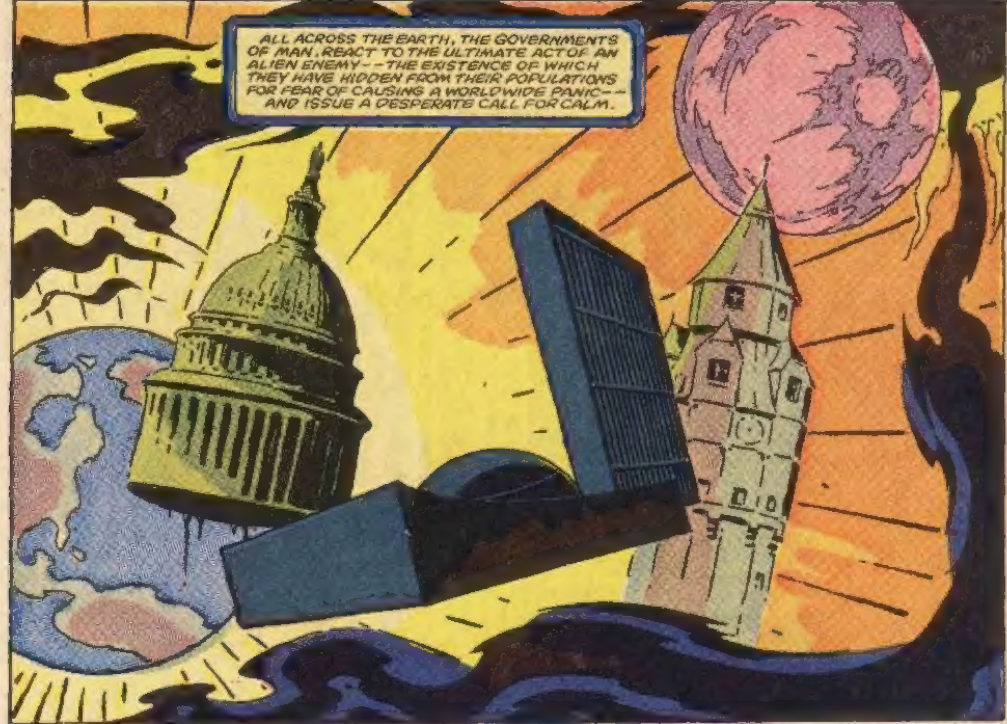


ALL ACROSS
THE EARTH,
CATACLYSMS AND
CONFLAGATIONS
ERUPT, TRIGGERING
DEVASTATING
CLIMATIC
CHANGES.



SEASONS
REVERSE
THEMSELVES AND
NATURE HERSELF GOES MAD,
AS THE SUDDEN MANIFESTATION
OF ANOTHER WORLD IN ORBIT ABOUT
THE SUN DISRUPTS THE PULL
OF GRAVITY UPON
OUR PLANET.





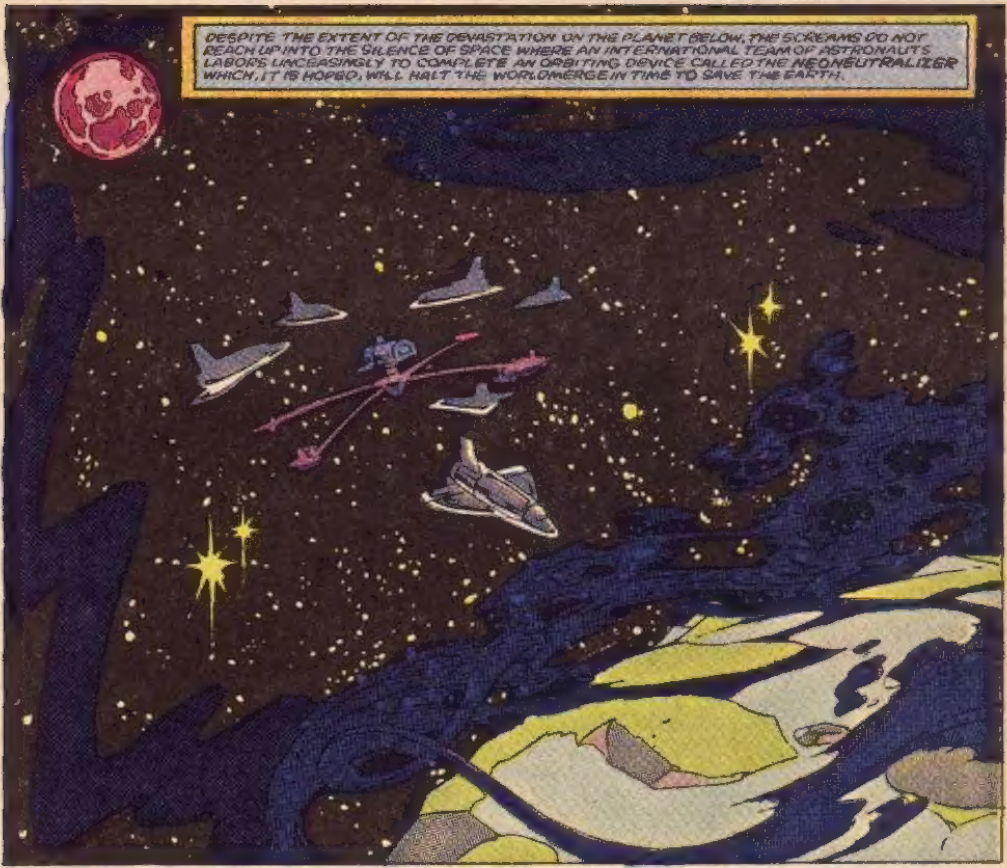
ALL ACROSS THE EARTH, THE GOVERNMENTS
OF MAN, REACT TO THE ULTIMATE ACT OF AN
ALIEN ENEMY--THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH
THEY HAVE HIDDEN FROM THEIR POPULATIONS
FOR FEAR OF CAUSING A WORLDWIDE PANIC--
AND ISSUE A DESPERATE CALL FOR CALM.



BUT ALL ACROSS THE EARTH THE CALL FOR CALM--
SCARCELY HEARD OVER THE SCREAMS OF THE INJURED--
COMES TOO LATE TO BE ANYTHING BUT IGNORED, AND
THE PANIC AUTHORITIES SOUGHT TO AVOID TAKES HOLD.



DESPITE THE EXTENT OF THE DEVASTATION ON THE PLANET BELOW, THE SCREAMS DO NOT REACH UP INTO THE SILENCE OF SPACE WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF ASTRONAUTS LABORS UNCEASINGLY TO COMPLETE AN ORBITING DEVICE CALLED THE NEONEUTRALIZER WHICH, IT IS HOPED, WILL HALT THE WORLDMERGE IN TIME TO SAVE THE EARTH.

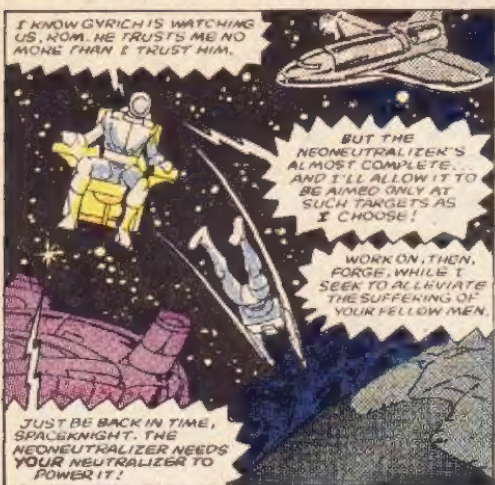
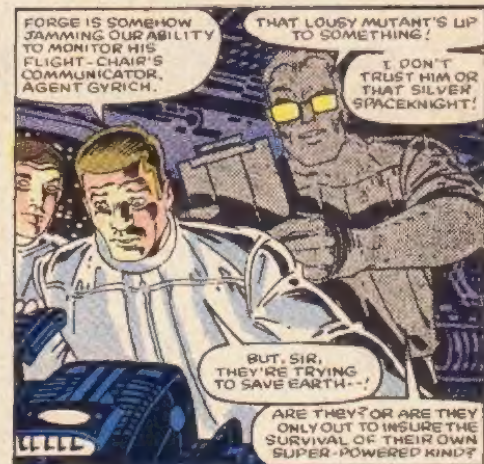
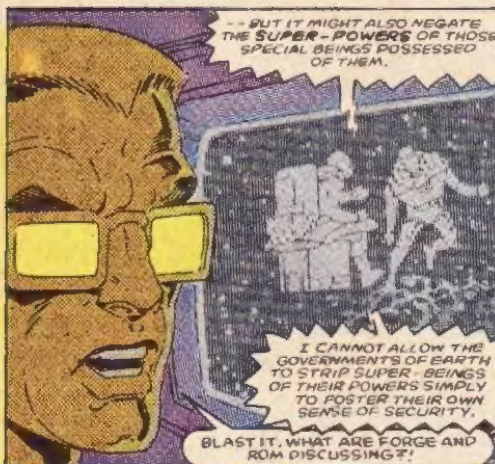
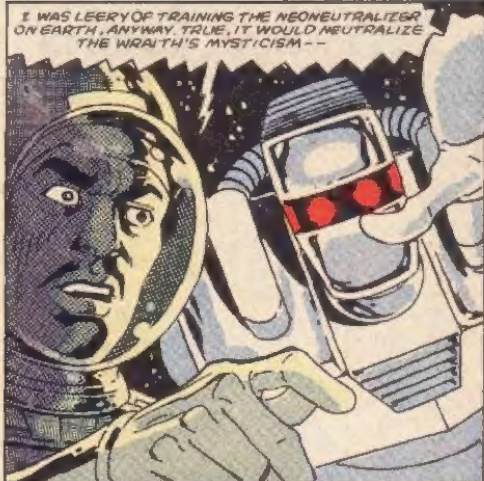


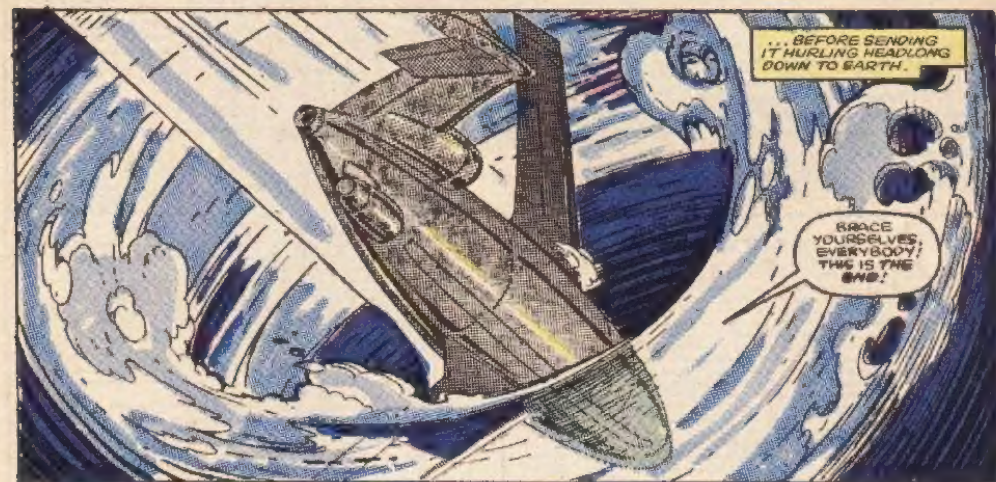
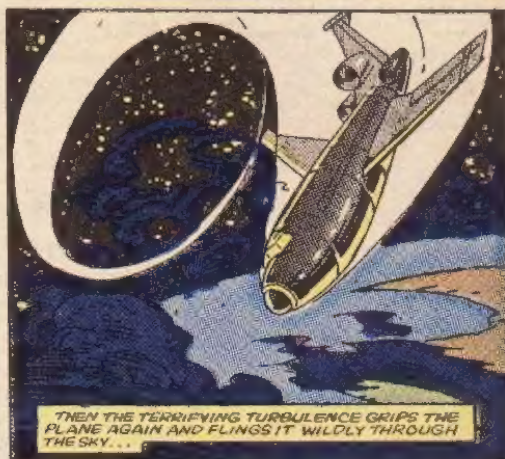
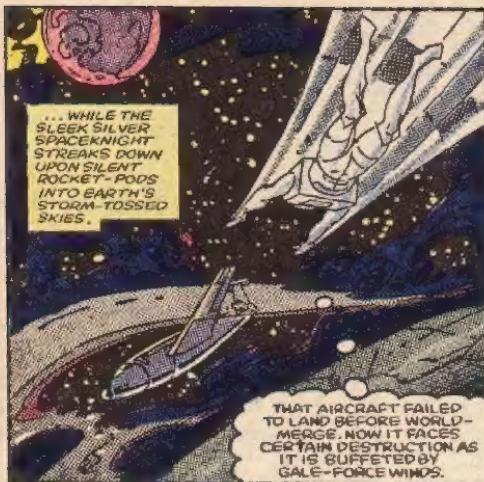
THAT TEAM IS LED BY ROM--GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS, AND THE MUTANT INVENTIVE GENIUS KNOWN ONLY AS FORGE!

WRAITHWORLD HAS COMPLETED
ITS MYSTIC TRANSPORT THROUGH
SPACE, FORGE.

THE VIRE
WRAITHS HAVE
DRAWN THEIR
DISTANT WORLD TO
YOUR SOLAR
SYSTEM.

IS THERE
STILL HOPE FOR
MANKIND, OR HAVE
WE LABORED
IN VAIN?



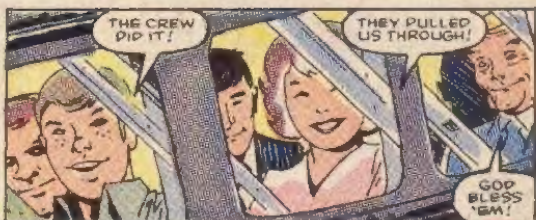


THEN SUDDENLY, MIRACULOUSLY,
AS THE STRICKEN JETLINER DROPS,
HOSTAGE TO THE STORM...

WE'VE STOPPED
FALLING! WE'RE
LEVELLING OFF!



WE'RE SAVED!
SAVED!



THEY PULLED
US THROUGH!

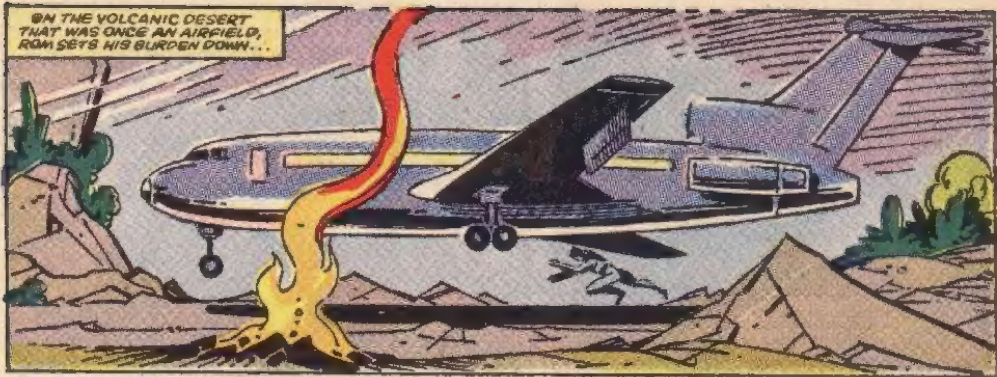
GOD
BLESS
'EM!

IT IS BUT A MATTER OF MOMENTS, HOWEVER, BEFORE
BOTH PILOTS AND PASSENGERS REALIZE THAT THE ONLY
WAY THEIR CRIPPLED AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE SURVIVED
WAS IF IT HAD SOME EXTRAORDINARY ASSISTANCE...

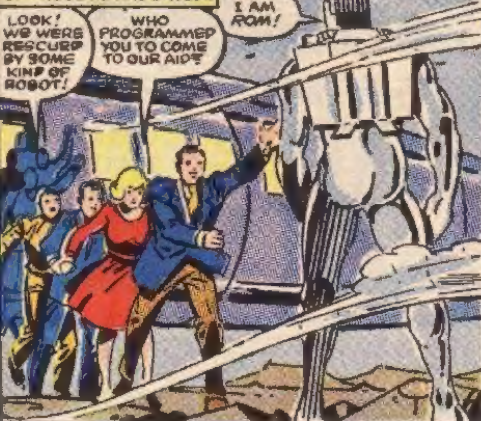


... FROM
ROM
SPACE-
KNIGHT!

ON THE VOLCANIC DESERT
THAT WAS ONCE AN AIRFIELD,
ROM SETS HIS BURDEN DOWN...



... AND STEPS FROM BENEATH THE PLANE TO THE WONDER
OF THOSE HE HAS SAVED.

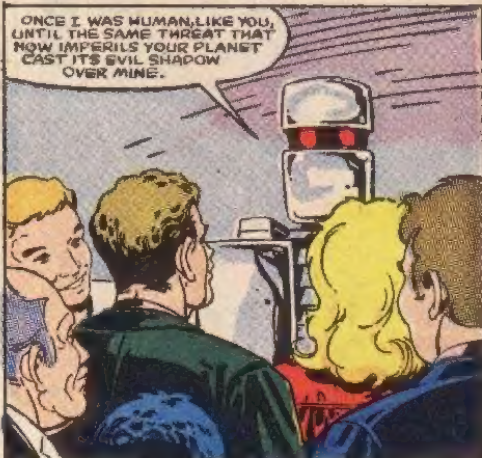


LOOK!
WE WERE
RESCUED
BY SOME
KIND OF
ROBOT!

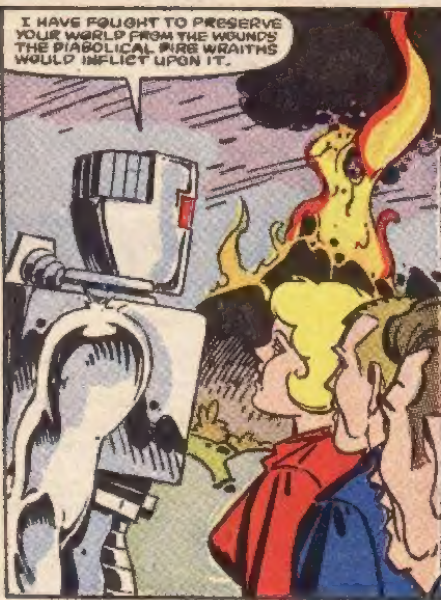
WHO
PROGRAMMED
YOU TO COME
TO OUR AIDE?

I AM
ROM!

ONCE I WAS HUMAN, LIKE YOU,
UNTIL THE SAME THREAT THAT
NOW IMPERILS YOUR PLANET
CAST ITS EVIL SHADOW
OVER MINE.



I HAVE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE
YOUR WORLD FROM THE WOUNDS
THE DIABOLICAL FIRE WRAITHS
WOULD INFLICT UPON IT.

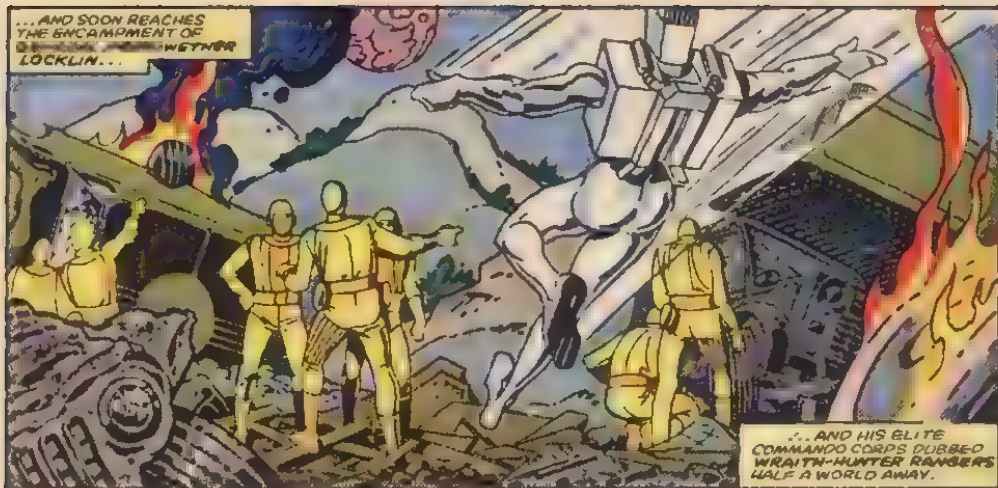


AND, THOUGH
DOOM CLOSES
FAST UPON THE
EARTH, I PRAY TO
THE GODS OF
CALAPOR TO GIVE
ME STRENGTH
THAT I MAY
YET PREVAIL.



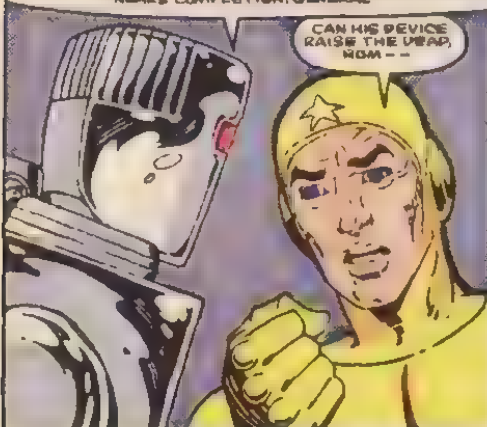
WITH THOSE
WORDS, ROM
SOARS SKY-
WARD...

... AND SOON REACHES
THE ENCAMPMENT OF
THE FIRE WRAITHS
LOCKLIN...



... AND HIS ELITE
COMMANDO CORPS DUBBED
WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS
WALK A WORLD AWAY.

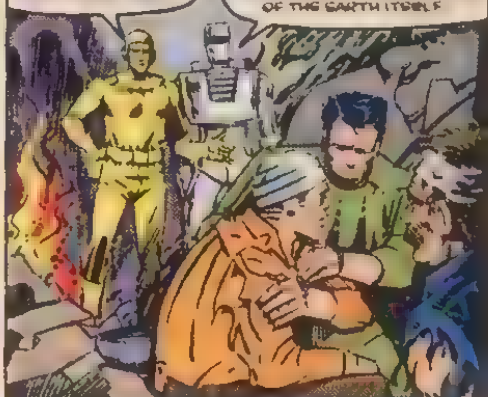
I COME BEARING WORD THAT FORGE'S NEONEUTRALIZER
NEARS COMPLETION, GENERAL.



CAN HIS DEVICE
RAISE THE DEAD,
ROM --

-- OR UNDO ALL THE
DESTRUCTION THE
WORLDWORMS HAVE
THUS FAR CAUSED?

NO, THAT WHICH IS DONE
CANNOT BE REVERSED, BUT
FORGE HOPES TO SEND OFF
THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION
OF THE EARTH ITSELF.



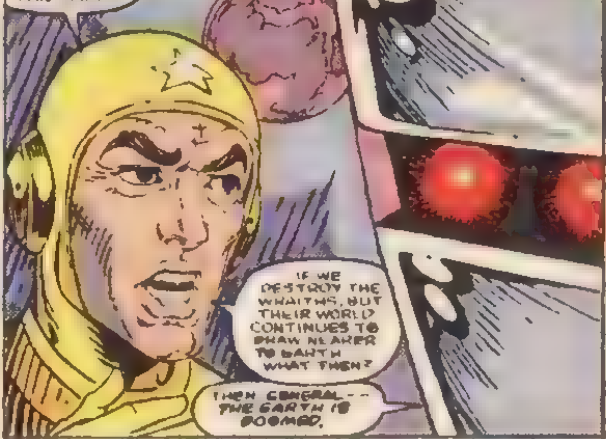
HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND WHEN HE
HOPED TO NEUTRALIZE THE FIRE WRAITHS'
MAGIC BEFORE THE WORLDWORMS
HAD COMMENCED --

BUT NOW THERE'S
ANOTHER WORLD
HANGING UP IN THE
EARTH'S SKY!



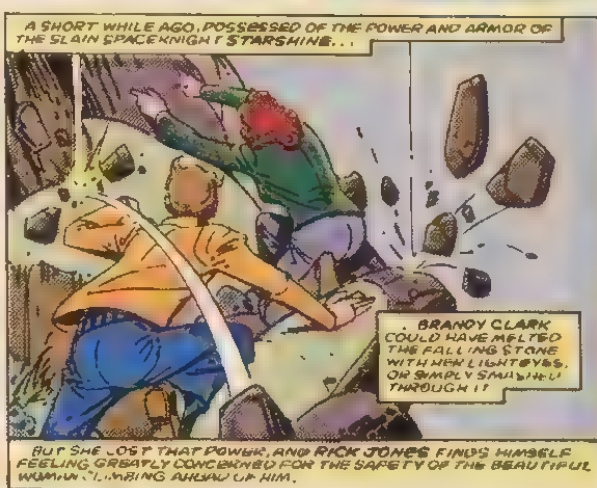
THE PLAN IS
THAT, BY
DESTROYING
THE WRAITHS,
WE WILL NEGATE
THEIR SPELLS.

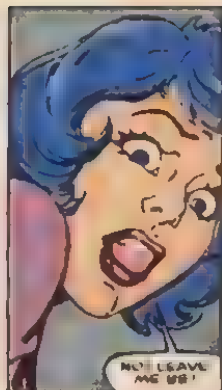
AND IF THAT
PLAN SHOULD
FAIL, ROM?



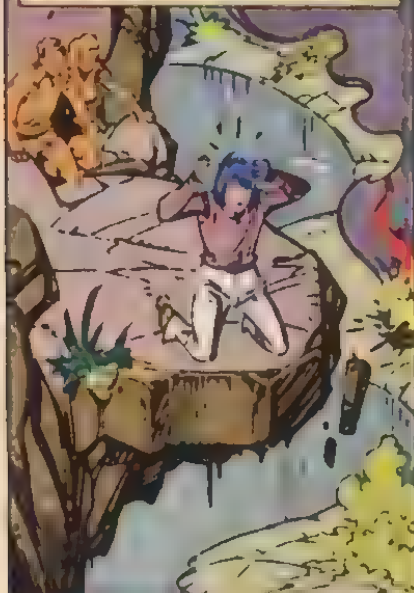
IF WE
DESTROY THE
WRAITHS, BUT
THEIR WORLD
CONTINUES TO
DRAW NEARER
TO EARTH
WHAT THEN?

THEN GENERAL --
THE EARTH IS
DOOMED.





... THE D, DRIVEN MAD BY THE ALIEN
THOUGHTS INSIDE HER MIND, NEITHER
HEARS THE CRIES OF THOSE WHO LOVE HER

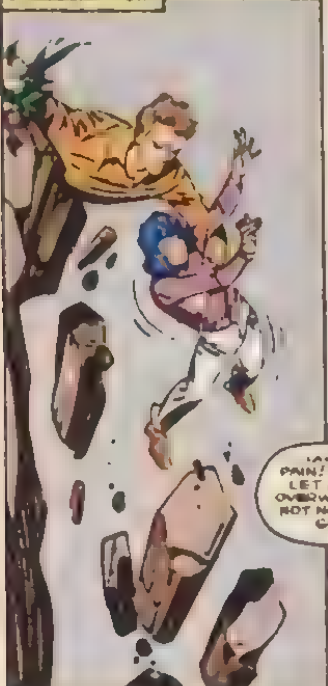


... NOR NOTICES HER DANGER AS THE
OUTCROPPING SHE KNEELS ON BEGINS TO
HEAVE AND CRACK BENEATH HER

CRUDY!



BUT RICK JONES CANNOT BELIEVE
ON THE SPOT THAT



FOR, DYING OF CANCER
HE KNOWS THAT
EVERY MOMENT OF
EXTENDED LIFE IS
PRECIOUS



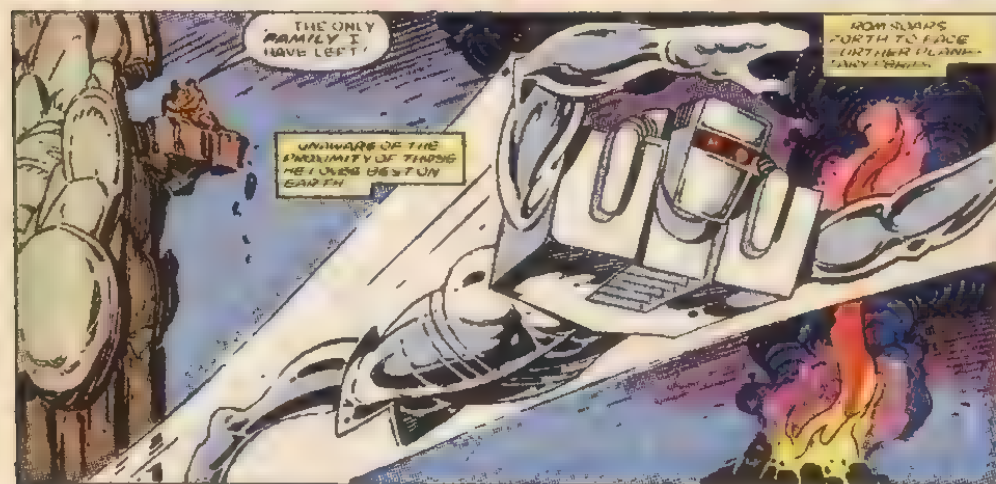
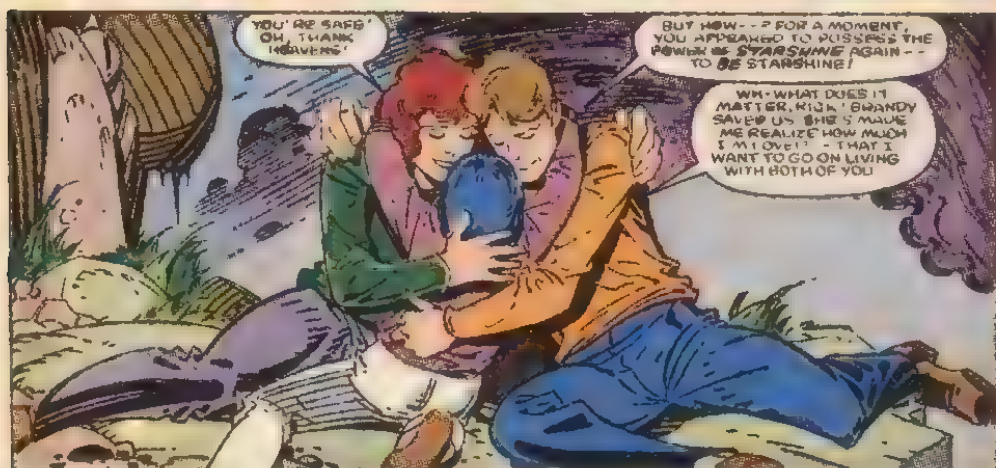
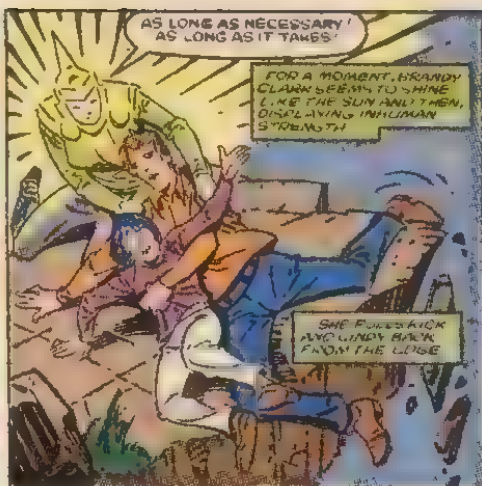
THE
PAIN IS BUT I CAN'T
LET MY ILLNESS
OVERWHELM ME --
NOT NOW WHEN I'VE
GOT TO --

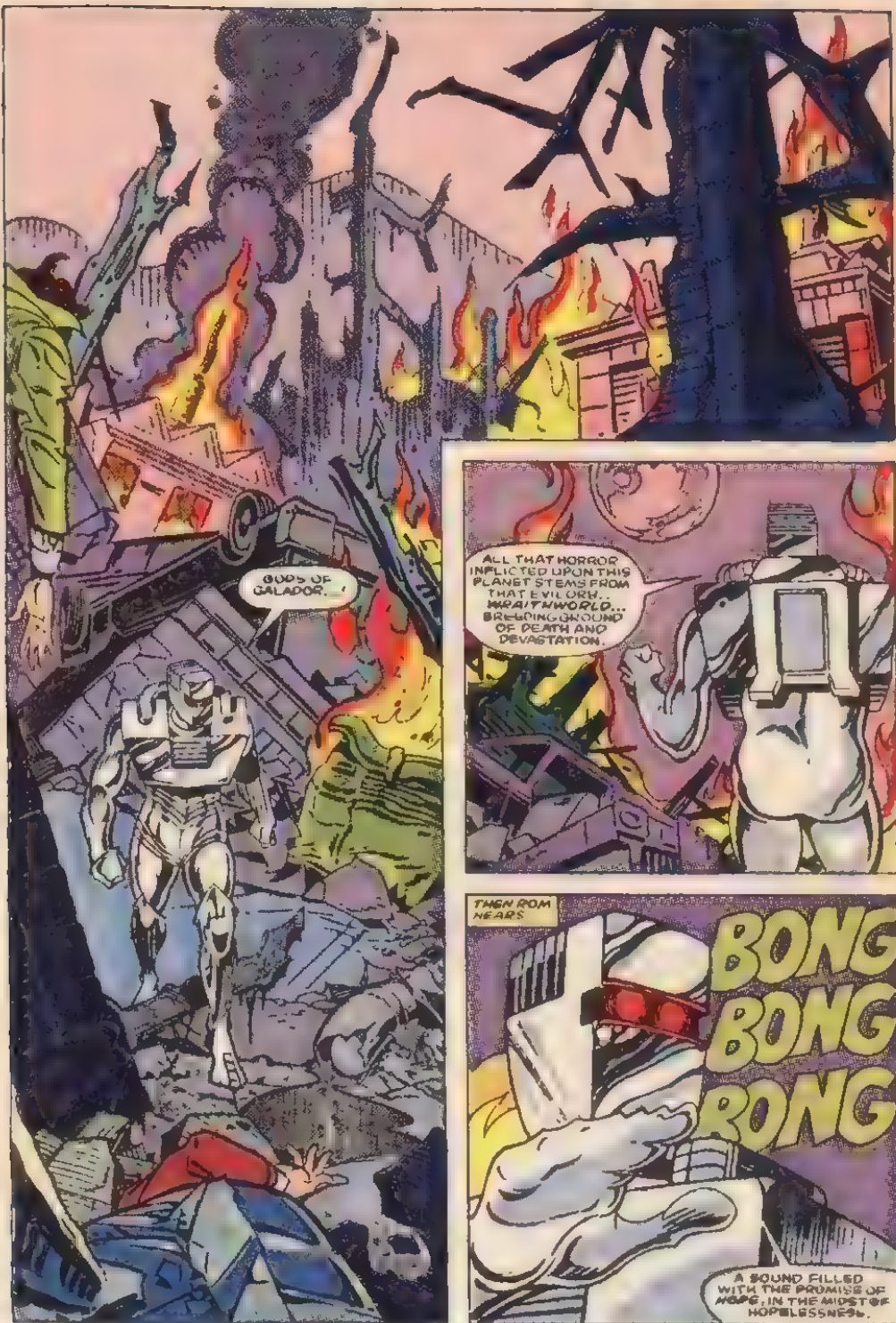
HOLD
ON!!



BEHOLD
A STRANGE
THING HAS
BEEN

THE STRANGE GUY AND GARDEN
AND BEHOLD





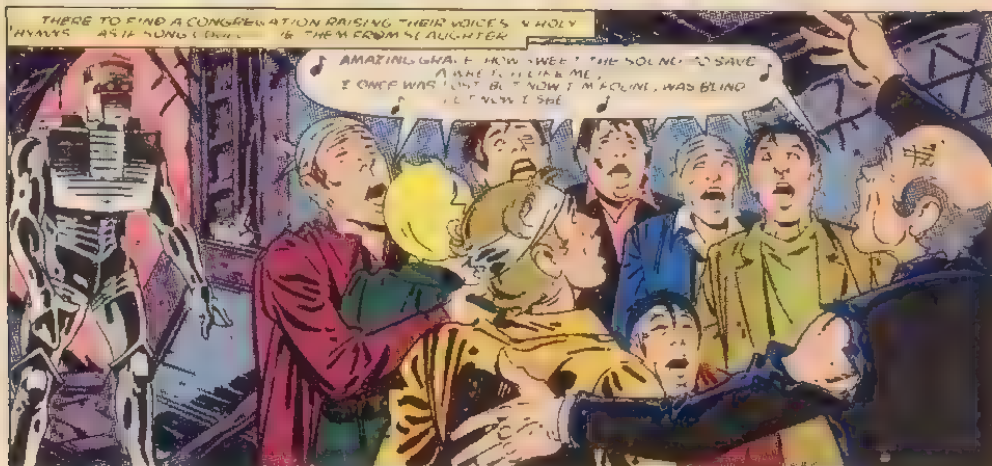
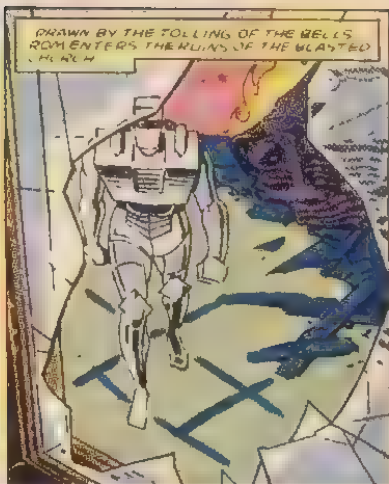
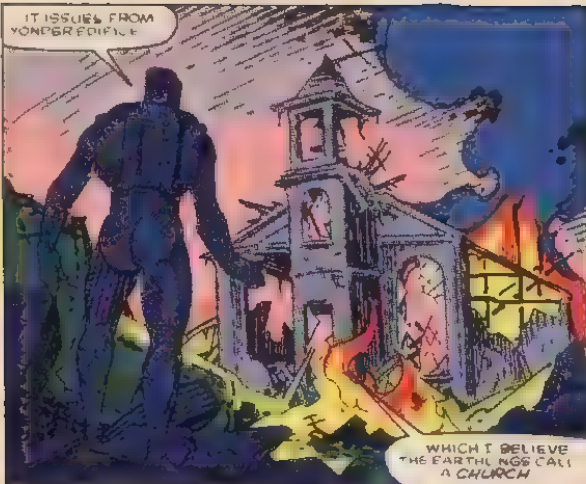
GODS OF
GALADOR...!

ALL THAT HORROR
INFLICTED UPON THIS
PLANET STEMS FROM
THAT EVIL ORG
WRAITHWORLD...
BREEDING GROUND
OF DEATH AND
DEVASTATION.

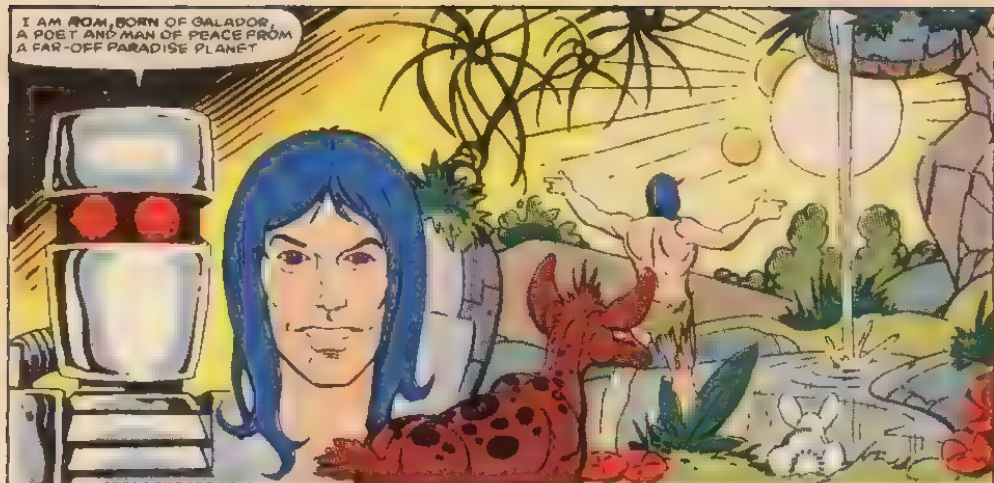
THEN ROM
HEARS

**BONG
BONG
BONG**

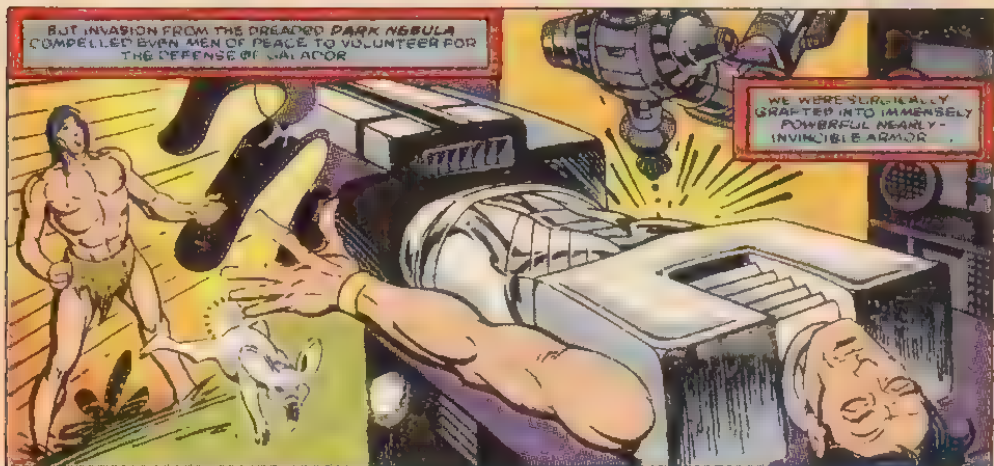
A SOUND FILLED
WITH THE PROMISE OF
HOPE, IN THE MIDST OF
HOPELESSNESS.



I AM AOM, BORN OF GALADOR,
A POET AND MAN OF PEACE FROM
A FAR-OFF PARADISE PLANET

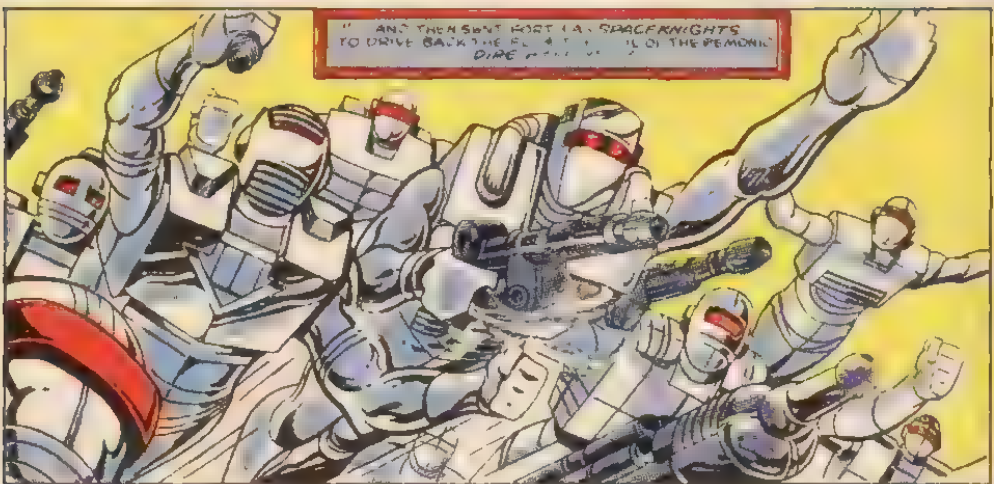


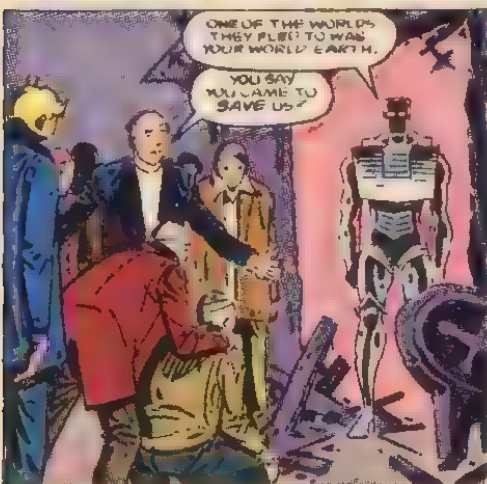
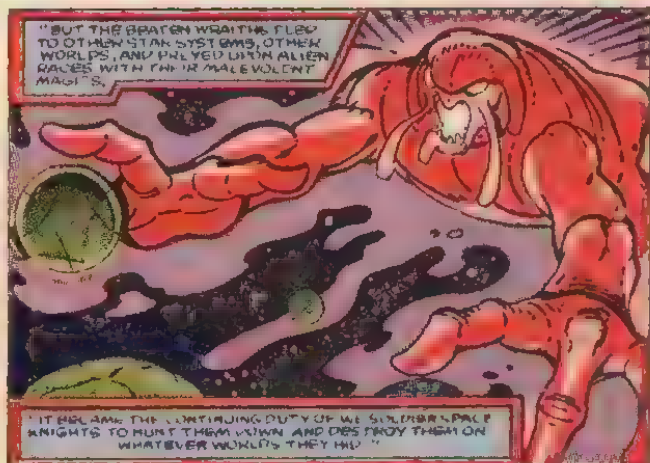
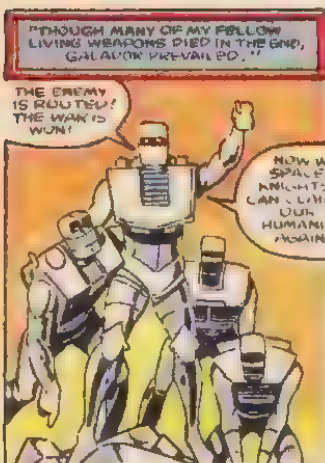
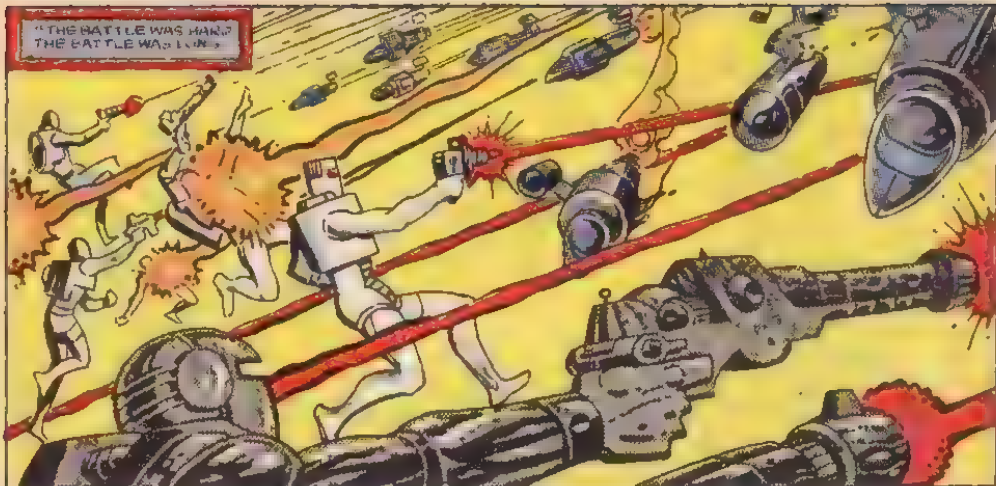
BUT INVASION FROM THE DREADED DARK NEBULA
COMPELLED EVEN MEN OF PEACE TO VOLUNTEER FOR
THE DEFENSE OF GALADOR



WE WERE SURGICALLY
GRAFTED INTO IMMENSELY
POWERFUL NEARLY-
INVINCIBLE ARMOR

" AND THEN SENT FORT L.A. SPACEKNIGHTS
TO DRIVE BACK THE FLAT EARTH OF THE PEMONIA
DIRE P... "





Bulpen Bulletins



Hi, I'm Archie Goodwin, editor of Marvel's EPIC COMICS line, appearing through the courtesy of my close personal friend (and Boss) Jim Shooter, who's always looking for an excuse to get out of doing one of these Bulpen Bulletins himself.

You may wonder why an editor in charge of such maturely-oriented, expensively-printed, creator-owned, direct sales-only titles as VOID, INDIGO, TIME SPIRITS, and SISTERHOOD OF STEEL is risking his life like this defending a giant bowl of cheese dip. Well, it's just my sophisticated, symbolic way of telling you that one of the biggest defenders of cheese dip ever is about to get his own Epic Comic.

I'm talking
SERGIO ARAGONES' GROO THE WANDERER!

If you frequent comics or specialty shops, you may have already encountered this swift-sworded, slow-witted, always hilarious barbarian. But if you've never seen GROO, we're about to change all that, because from now on, you'll be able to find him everywhere! Sergio's creation (That's right, he's the same Sergio Aragonés famous for his work in

MAD and about a jillion different paperback books) is going to be the first Epic Comic available on newsstands all over just like your favorite Marvel titles! But it won't be the last! So you see, GROO is far more than just another great seventy-five cent comic book on sale right now... It's the beginning of an ENTIRE NEW ERA for Epic Comics!

Uh... Meantime, anybody care for some leftover cheese dip?



THE HYPE BOX

G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1 — Now's your chance to plug into the G.I. Joe saga and learn everything about G.I. Joe! This special Yearbook contains the complete reprint of the legendary G.I. JOE #1, highlights from every other issue to bring you up to date with the current story, selected dossiers of your favorite Joes, and an article about G.I. Joe on television! Look for the incredible wrap-around cover by MICHAEL GOLDEN! This is the book you've been waiting for, so reserve your copy now!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100 — A special double-size anniversary issue! SEE Kingpin's ultimate revenge! SEE what finally happens between the Black Cat and Spider-Man! SEE the furious battle between Spider-Man and Spot! SEE... the Black Costume! Written and penciled by AL MIL-GROMI inked by GEOFF ISHERWOOD!

MARVEL FANFARE #19 — Featuring a Cloak & Dagger extravaganza! This 3-part story reveals new insights about the true nature of Cloak and Dagger's relationship! And each part was drawn by different artists, including TONY SAKAGUCHI, RICK LEONARDI and TERRY AUSTIN, and KERRY GAMMILL and GEORGE FREEMAN! And it was all written by BILL MANTLO! On sale now at your local comic shop!

SERGIO ARAGONES' GROO THE WANDERER #1 — Madcap Madman SERGIO ARAGONES brings Groo to EPIC COMICS, and the fun is just beginning! Follow Groo as he wanders through an age of wizards and monsters, looking for an honest job as a mercenary. Unfortunately, Groo does what Groo does best, and that means everything is bound to go wrong! Join Groo, Sergio, and mendicant MARK EVANIER in some of the funniest adventures ever inspired by cheese dip! Cheese dip? (Hey, just take our word for it — don't miss the new monthly adventures of GROO, on sale at your local comics shop and newsstands everywhere!)

SUPER SPECIAL #36: DUNE — Arrakis, a world of deserts and voracious sandworms, where water is the most precious commodity, would seem to be the last place anyone would want to go. Why, then, does it hold the key to the future of galactic civilization? Frank Herbert's science fiction classic has become the movie event of the decade, and this is the official movie adaptation! Written by RALPH MACHCOTI! Illustrated by BILL SIKKIEWICZ!

CHECK LIST

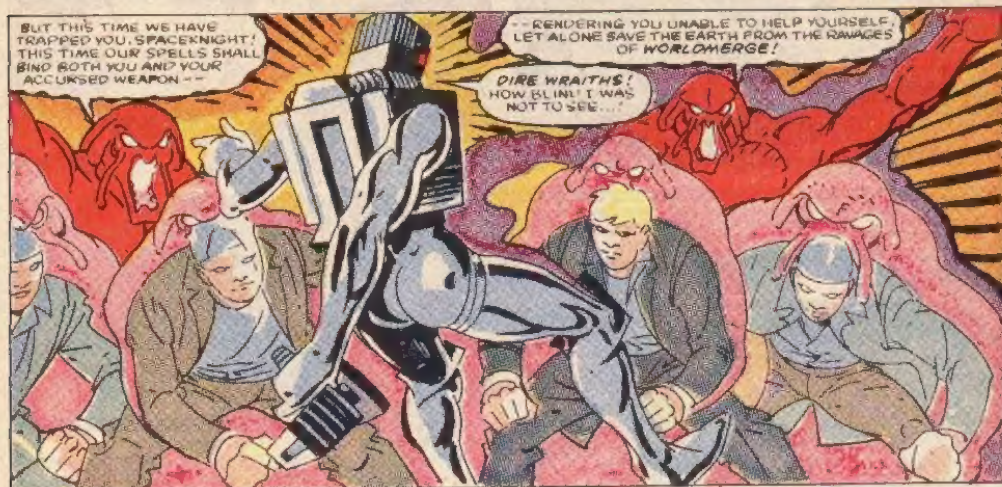
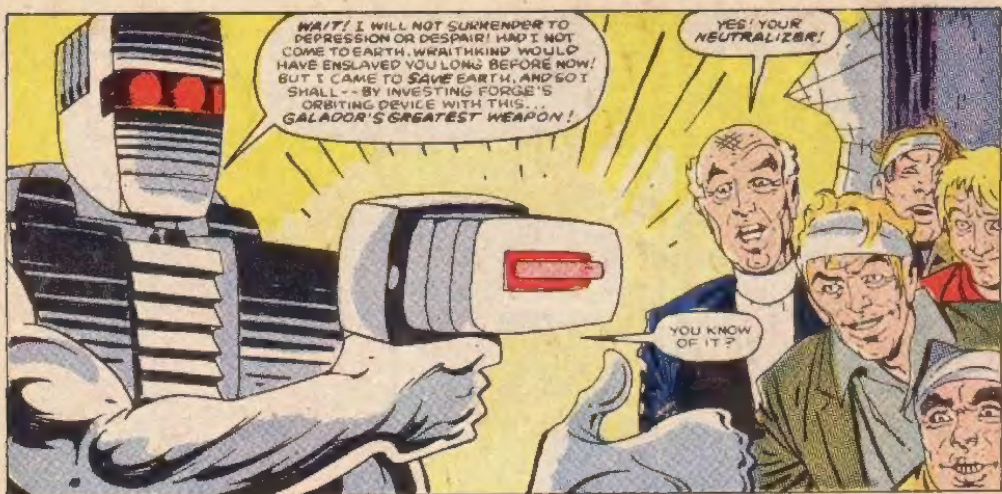
- ☐ **THE THING #21**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #216**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #25** — Featuring the final chapter of the Cloak & Dagger trilogy! You dare not miss it!
- ☐ **RED SONJA #7**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #11** — The penultimate chapter of the war that shook the Marvel Universe!
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #27**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1** — Because you demanded it! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #262**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #303**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #27**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #6**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #20**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #20**
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- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #305**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #253**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #108**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #173** — Reprinting "The Thrill of the Hunt," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from Amazing Spider-Man #34.

- ☐ **X-MEN #101**
- ☐ **ROM #64** — P. CRAIG RUSSELL is the Guest Inker over pencils by STEVE DITKO in this thrilling issue written by BILL MANTLO!
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #115** — Cage and The Fist (and writer JIM OWNSLEY) welcome new regular penciler MARK BRIGHT! The action is just beginning!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #33**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #276** — Not a dream! Not a hoax! JOHN BYRNE introduces the inkling wizardry of JERRY ORDWAY! It's the start of a new era of greatness!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #182**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #141**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #93**
- ☐ **THOR #353**
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100** — A milestone issue! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DR. WHO #6**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #109**

- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #19** — A Cloak & Dagger Special! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #24**
- ☐ **EPIC COMICS**
- ☐ **CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **SERGIO ARAGONES' GROO THE WANDERER #1** — Featuring the hilarious misadventures of SERGIO ARAGONES' wandering barbarian! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **THE SWORDS OF SWASHBUCKLERS #1** — These space-faring pirates find excitement and adventure in this new series by BILL MANTLO and BUTCH GUICE! Continued from the Graphic Novel!
- ☐ **COYOTE #10**
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #28**
- ☐ **ASSORTED GOODIES**
- ☐ **SUPER SPECIAL #36: DUNE** — Danger and intrigue are a way of life on the desert world! The complete Marvel adaptation of the hit movie! See Hype Box!
- ☐ **SUPER SPECIAL #37: 2010** — The space odyssey continues in this Marvel adaptation of the most eagerly awaited movie sequel of all! Written by J. J. DEMATTEIS. Pencils by LARRY HAMA and JOE BARNEY. Finishes by TOM PALMER.



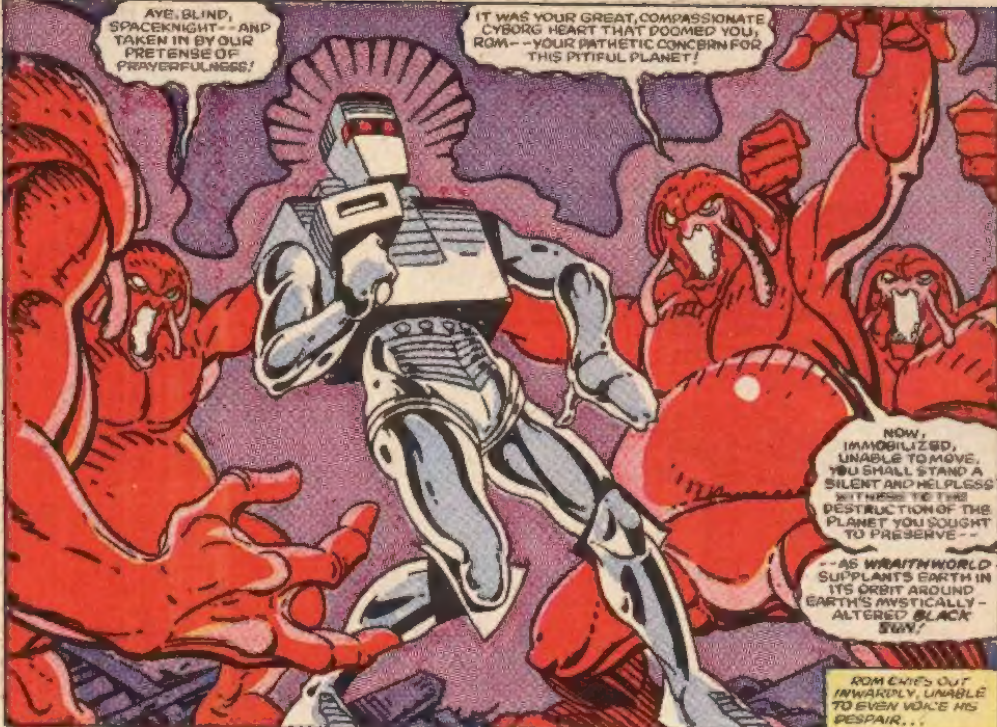
AYE, BLIND, SPACEKNIGHT-- AND TAKEN IN BY OUR PRETENSE OF PRAYERFULNESS!

IT WAS YOUR GREAT, COMPASSIONATE CYBORG HEART THAT DOOMED YOU, ROM-- YOUR PATHETIC CONCERN FOR THIS PITIFUL PLANET!

NOW, IMMOBILIZED, UNABLE TO MOVE, YOU SHALL STAND A SILENT AND HELPLESS WITNESS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET YOU SOUGHT TO PRESERVE--

--AS WRAITHWORLD SUPPLANTS EARTH IN ITS ORBIT AROUND EARTH'S MYSTICALLY-ALTERED BLACK SUN.

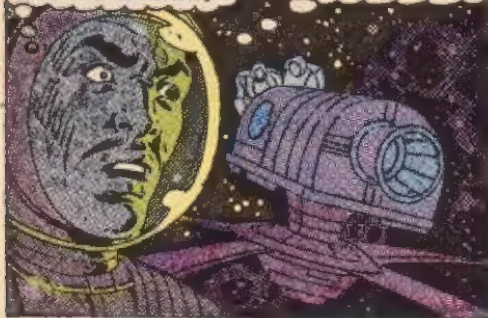
ROM EMITS OUT INWARDLY, UNABLE TO EVEN VOICE HIS DESPAIR...



... WHILE, IN SPACE, THE MUTANT GENIUS CALLED FORGE GROWS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED.

WHERE'S ROM? MY RECONUTRALIZER'S READY! ONLY HE CAN POWER IT!

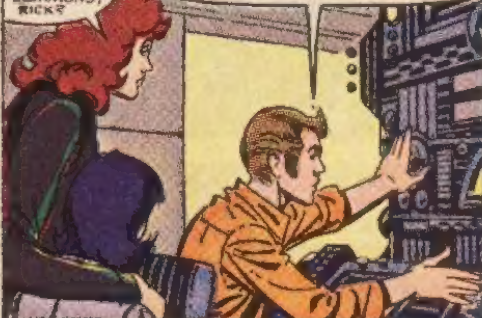
AND THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT IF EARTH IS TO SURVIVE!



WHILE, IN WHAT REMAINS OF THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGER ENCAMPMENT...

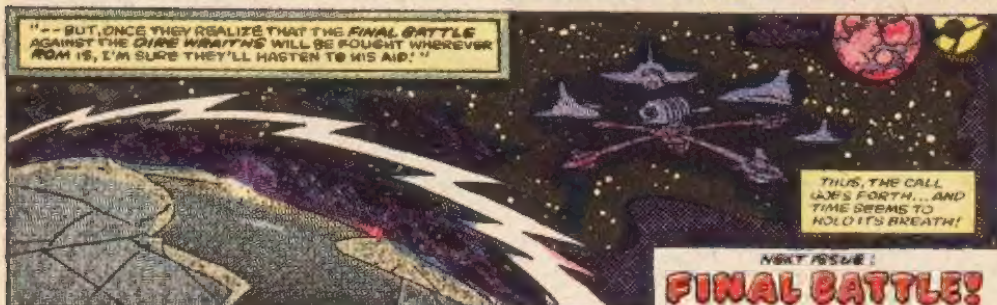
WILL ANYONE HEAR OUR SUMMONS, RICK?

I'M SURE THOSE WE'RE TRYING TO REACH ARE ALREADY DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO SAVE EARTH, BRANDY--



"-- BUT, ONCE THEY REALIZE THAT THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST THE DIRE WRAITHS WILL BE FOUGHT WHEREVER ROM IS, I'M SURE THEY'LL HASTEN TO HIS AID."

THUS, THE CALL GOES FORTH... AND TIME SEEMS TO HOLD ITS BREATH!



NEXT ISSUE:

FINAL BATTLE!

SPACE NOTES

MICHAEL CARLIN: editor MICHAEL HIGGINS: assistant editor

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Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Bill and Steve,

I just got through reading ROM numbers 58 and 59 and I must say they were excellent. There were two things I particularly liked in these issues:

(1) Steve Ditko's art. I really hated to see Sal Buscema leave ROM like he did NEW MUTANTS earlier this year, but I must admit Steve's pencils in ROM #59 were the best example we've seen of his art. Keep up the good work, Steve!

(2) Starshine's realization of the benefits of Rom's methods. Good! I liked her attitude better before ROM #50. Maybe she will have time to think the whole thing through and get this bloodlust out of her heart.

Until next issue (and beyond), keep up the good work!

David Duncan
34 Benedict Terrace
Longmeadow, MA 01106

Everybody is always sad to see Sal leave a book he's worked on, David, because he tends to put a lot of time and love into all his projects. But that's why you won't want to miss the ETERNALS limited series Sal's been working on of late. You'll flip... the same way you've been flipping over his replacement on the NEW MUTANTS—Bill Sienkiewicz! And, from the looks of the letters we've received, we made the right choice for ROM with Steve Ditko.

Romulans,

Well, guess what? Rom just celebrated his fifth birthday. He's come a long way from being a simple toy to becoming an important fixture in the Marvel Universe. He even had his own entry in THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. The Microneuts can't say that about themselves.

But, how does Rom celebrate his birthday? With a double-sized issue? No. An end to the Wrath saga, perhaps? No. A major turning point in the storyline? Nope! There wasn't even a giant birthday cake for a Wrath dancing girl to pop out of. All Rom gets for his birthday is a new artist. But what a gift!

For those who don't know, Steve Ditko is one of the best of the early Marvel artists. Even before and after that, he was always a major talent. But, this is amazing stuff here. Issue #59 showed that he is still The Master of Mystic Art. The microscopic world of the art's body was right up there with everything he ever did like it before. Of course, we can't forget Bob Layton (#59) and Tom Palmer (#60) who brought Steve's work barreling into the 80's!

One last comment before I go... wouldn't it be grand if a certain arachnid-man or a strange doctor were to make a guest appearance sometime?

The Mad Writer
119 Rutherford
Redwood City, CA 94061

Anything could happen, "Mad"? We're not making any promises, but be prepared for anything and everything — we are!

Dear Rommies,

I just finished reading ROM #59 and was very impressed with the storyline and the artwork until about two-thirds of the way through. Looking at the world "grow" around Rom and Starshine was both interesting and realistic. However, you never showed us how they entered the art's body and once inside all realism was forsaken. Suddenly, we entered a world of colors and shapes which served no apparent purpose. Why didn't Steve Ditko stick to believable inner-body organisms instead of creating a new Disneyland attraction?

I hate to be picky but I have one more complaint. I understand how a virus can be contagious, but I've never heard of a cure spreading in the same manner. Don't you think that was going a bit too far? At least give us an explanation.

David Linden
Eastchester, NY

If you'll look closely, David, you'll find the answer in the last pages of issue #59. Rom's neutralizer affected the Wrath virus so that, as it kept spreading, it carried healing effects instead of evil ones. We're sorry you didn't appreciate Steve's bizarre conception of the inner mechanisms of an art but many fans seemed to feel that this was a prime example of the art he's best known for.

Dear Mike,

Just before reading ROM #58 and 59 I thought "What could the Wraths do to ante"? Boy, was I surprised! Let's see some more microscopic Rom, and don't leave out Ant-Man. How about Rom teaming up with the Rangers?

Ed Riordan
2910 Zuleite Ave.
Bronx, NY 10461

Exactly which Rangers do you mean, Ed? Rom's certainly seen his share of action alongside the Wrath-Hunter Rangers in recent months. However, if it's the Texas Rangers you're asking about, there are unfortunately no plans for them to meet in the near future. In the meantime, we hope you caught the guest appearance of one of their members, Red Wolf, in issue #139 of the DEFENDERS.

Dear Romulans,

I have been a reader of ROM since the start and have every single issue printed — in fact, as far as I know, I have every single issue of any comic that contains any reference at all to Rom, his fellow Spaceknights, or the Dire Wraths. A few years ago, it would have been pretty easy to make that claim, but now... wow!

As a long-term reader, I feel a few words of praise are in order for everyone who has been instrumental in getting Rom and his Dire Wrath enemies some long overdue recognition from the rest of the Marvel Universe. For years, it seemed that Bill Mantlo

and Sal Buscema were the only major talents at Marvel who would have anything to do with my favorite Spaceknight, but this Wrath War has really opened things up. The Dire Wraths, and footnotes referring to ROM are popping up in practically all of your titles. The Wraths have already made a big appearance in the AVENGERS, and from the looks of things in the X-MEN, they're going to make themselves noticed there, too. I'm willing to bet that Bill Mantlo is breathing a sigh of relief that fellow geniuses like Chris Claremont and Roger Stern are keeping tabs on the Wrath War now. Otherwise, Bill would have to write about the whole thing on his own.

When ROM first debuted, I believe you were under a contract with his real creators, some toy company, not to have him appear anywhere outside of his own mag. Obviously, although you've made no mention of it, you are no longer under this restriction. No Marvel comic book can survive long when it claims to be part of the Marvel Universe and yet does not seem to be. ROM is in no danger of this now.

Meanwhile, I haven't seen a trace of the dreaded Rom dolls (oh, excuse me, action figures) in the toy stores. Has the toy company given up on Rom? Ironic, huh?

As for ROM, the comic book, it sure seems to be flourishing. Guice and Sienkiewicz covers, guest stars galore, and more outside references (i.e., footnotes) than you can shake a neutralizer at. I don't see how any AVENGERS, HULK, or X-MEN fan could have gotten this far without picking up at least one copy of ROM to see what all the fuss is about. I'm willing to bet that your fan mail has increased tremendously of late, and that most of it is from new and unfamiliar readers.

I'm happy to see ROM finally getting the attention it deserves, but I'm not sure I'm altogether pleased with how events in the book are progressing. I mean, ROM has gotten so grim lately it's become downright depressing. I'm beginning to wonder what the heck has gotten into Bill Mantlo — ROM and the HULK have become the two gloomiest comics around. Couldn't Bill lighten up for just an issue or two and give us readers a breather?

Oh, well. Whatever Mr. Mantlo decides to do now, thank him for me nonetheless — Thank him for making ROM a comic book legend.

Andrew Hermann
836 Lewis Lane
Rosemont, PA 19010

THIS JUST IN...

NEXT ISSUE: It's the ultimate battle with the Wraths, as Rom fights side by side with earth's mightiest heroes, earth's unaccounted heroes — and oh, should we be more specific and say the AVENGERS, the X-MEN and many, many more? That's right, ROM #65 features more heroes than you can shake a Wrath at... and then some! But who will stand victorious? We're betting on Rom... how about you??